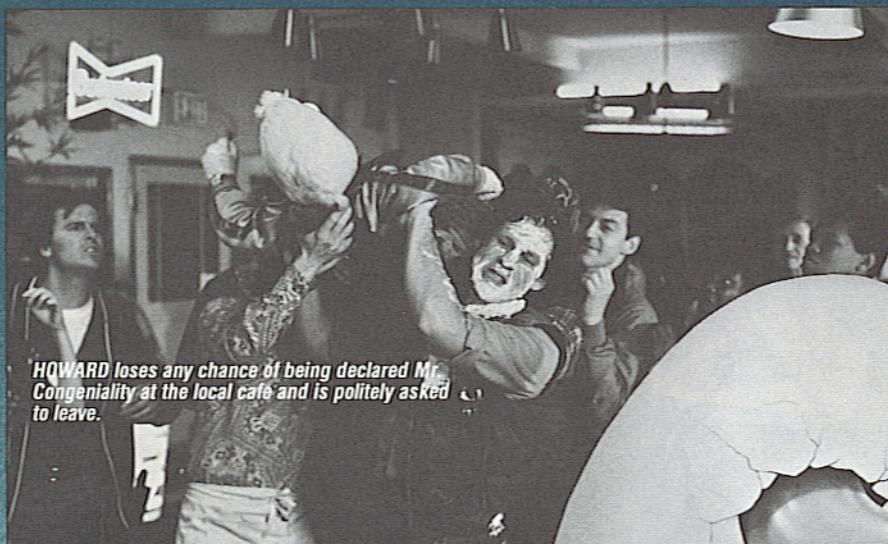


BANTHA TRACKS

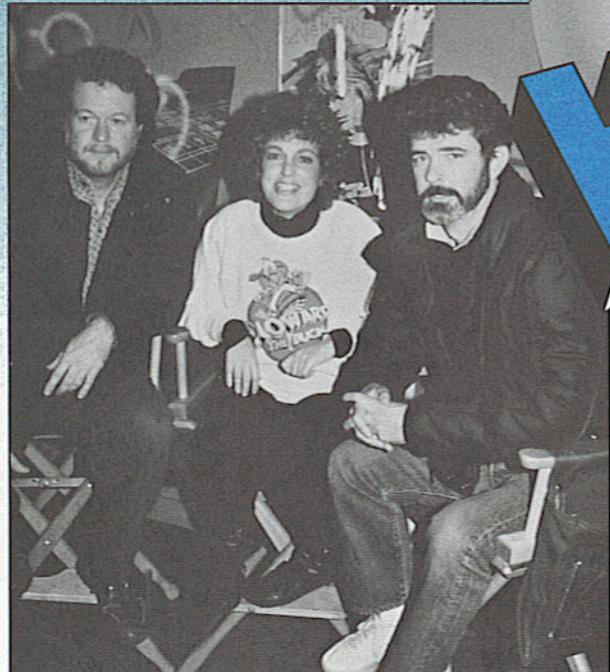
JOURNAL OF THE OFFICIAL STAR WARS/LUCASFILM FAN CLUB

Girl Meets Duck? Howard Reads Jean-Paul Sartre?



'HOWARD loses any chance of being declared Mr Congeniality at the local cafe and is politely asked to leave.'

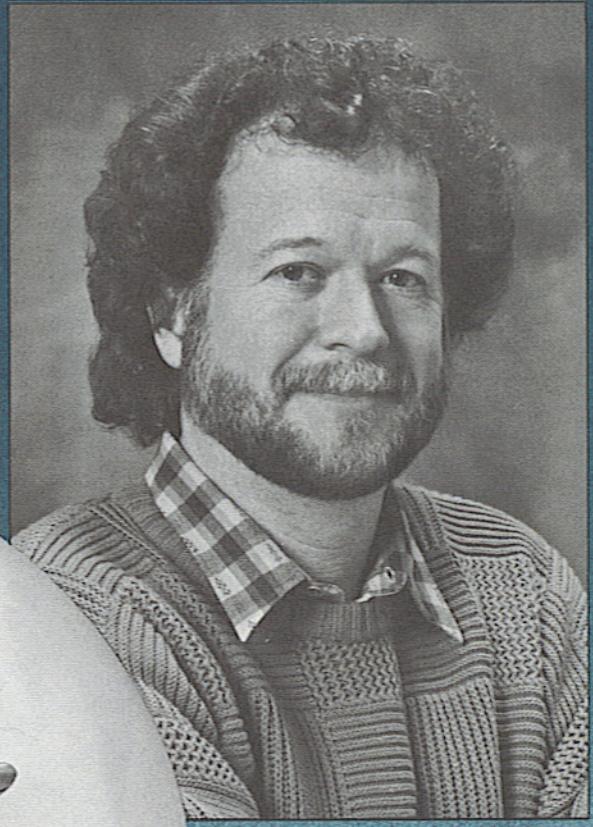
THE ULTIMATE EXISTENTIAL TRAUMA?



HOWARD THE DUCK™

**EXPERTS AGREE:
How You
Make a Film
Reveals Your
Personality!**

In the night club set: Willard, Gloria and George.



HOWARD THE DUCK Director, Willard Huyck.

**HOWARD'S DIRECTOR—
WILLARD HUYCK—TELLS ALL!**

If ducks can smoke cigars, then film directors can fly. And, HOWARD THE DUCK Director Willard Huyck seems to be flying all over Lucasfilm these days as post-production on his new film is completed. Bantha Tracks caught Huyck in between ILM, his production offices and editing suites at Lucasfilm's Sprocket Systems. In the midst of post-production, putting all the pieces together, Huyck took the time to talk to us and you about his work.

continued inside . . .

*Willard Huyck (continued)*

HOWARD THE DUCK lands on Earth this August in a Universal Pictures release. As Bantha Tracks readers know, his trip to your local theatre began eleven years ago when Executive Producer, George Lucas showed a "Howard the Duck" Marvel Comic to Director Willard Huyck and Producer Gloria Katz. While the rights to HOWARD were in other hands, the idea of making this film was in the back of Huyck's and Katz's minds for years. Eventually and fortunately they brought that idea back out front and into a Katz/Huyck script.

In between other film projects, like INDIANA JONES AND THE TEMPLE OF DOOM, Huyck and Katz are movie fans. Willard Huyck says it's a big reason for HOWARD's trip to Earth and the wide screen.

"When we're not writing or shooting and our lives are a bit more leisurely, we see as many movies as we can. A lot of films we see for professional reasons, to keep abreast of what's going on technically. Other times, I do exactly as

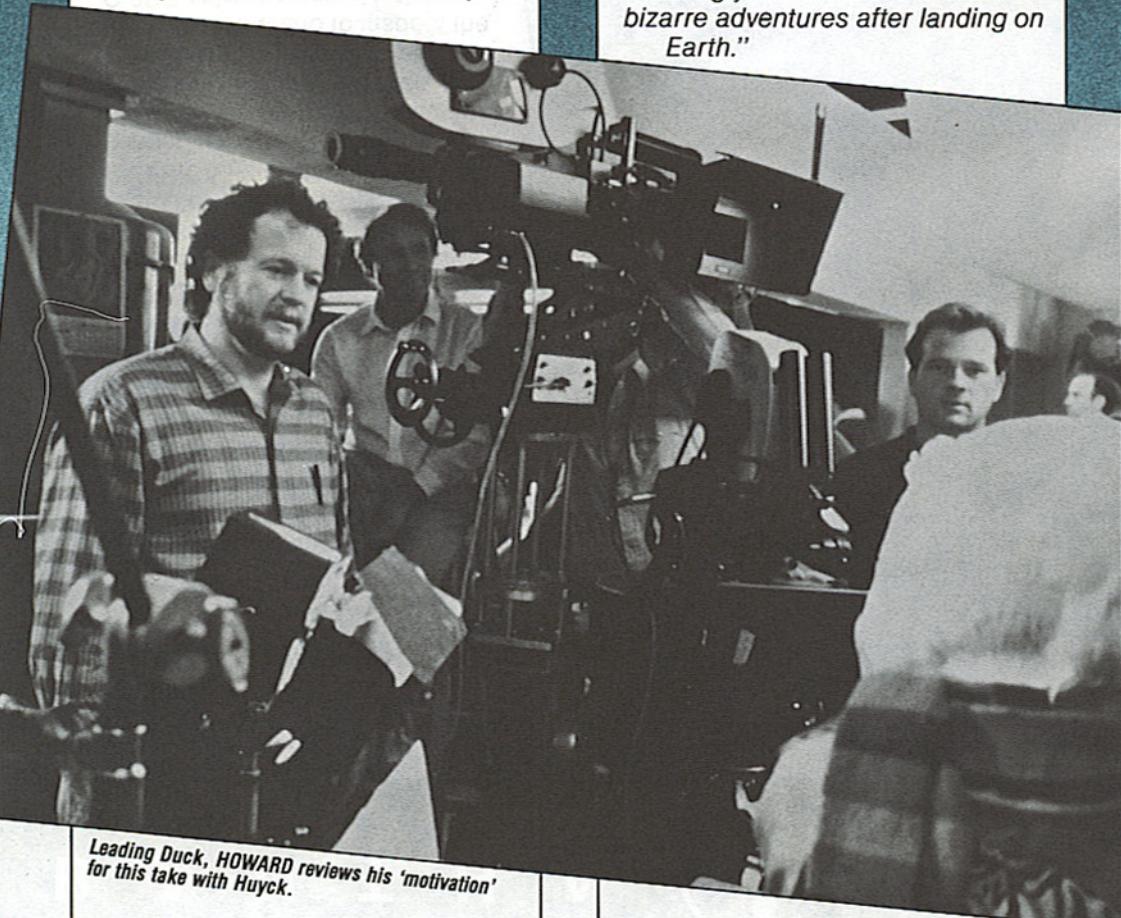
other people do — I just want to escape. I open the Sunday paper and look at the movie ads, trying to find something that sounds entertaining, off-the-wall, bizarre, fun. I've always felt that if I saw an ad for a movie called HOWARD THE DUCK, well, its weirdness would definitely entice me."

Huyck had a great affinity for HOWARD because he saw a great similarity between a duck from another planet and a newcomer to the film industry.

"Howard was hilarious — and different from other Marvel Comics of that era. Howard was just an average duck who got shoved by Fate into an heroic role. He was the ultimate outsider, his alienation was total. But, his feistiness and comical sense of the absurdity of his situation proved that existential trauma could be extremely amusing. Also, when we first discovered HOWARD eleven years ago, we were still new to the movie business and landing in Hollywood was amazingly similar to HOWARD's bizarre adventures after landing on Earth."

Existentialism is a philosophy first widely championed by French author and philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre in the early 1940's. It stresses (among other things) the freedom and responsibility of the individual. Huyck says that is exactly what's going on with HOWARD.

HOWARD's leading lady, Lea Thompson.



Leading Duck, HOWARD reviews his 'motivation' for this take with Huyck.



"He's a minority of one on Earth. He has no idea what he's doing here, has no inkling what the future holds for him. HOWARD's totally responsible for himself and his actions — he has to create his own life, in effect. Of course, HOWARD's less likely to sit around on his tail-feathers and philosophize about his predicament than he is to do something about it. He is, after all, a duck of action."

Dealing with all his new Earthly challenges can be very funny. Through HOWARD's eyes, all these "hairless apes" running around is a pretty weird sight. Much of the film's humor comes from HOWARD himself being so very different from the rest of us — and so very much the same.

"We've dealt with HOWARD's story straight on. We had no intention of making a campy film about a duck. However, when you put HOWARD in even the most serious

situations, he naturally skews them. For me, some of the funniest scenes are the most dramatic ones. When Howard discusses the future of his relationship with Beverly, it's very poignant. But, at the same time you realize you're watching a girl and a duck fall in love and it takes on a weirdly funny tone. The love story in this film works wonderfully. Girl meets duck; they fall in love; he saves Earth. A classic story."

Huyck's off-beat sense of humor is revealed in just one line from the film. It's a tribute to the classic love story in the film CASABLANCA.

"At one point in the film, as HOWARD is preparing to return to his own planet, he and Beverly (his

human girlfriend) are engaged in a terribly sad farewell scene. In the middle of it, he says to her, 'Of all the alleys in the world I could have fallen into, why did it have to be yours.' This is quite touching, but the allusion to CASABLANCA also makes it strangely nutty. Either way, it's a wonderful moment."

Actress Lea Thompson, who you probably saw in BACK TO THE FUTURE, is HOWARD's leading lady — Beverly. Huyck says theirs was a special relationship that adds much to the film.

"Lea really fell head-over-heels for HOWARD and it gives a lot of sincerity and heart to her performance. There was, as they say, a definite chemistry that developed





between our leading lady and leading duck."

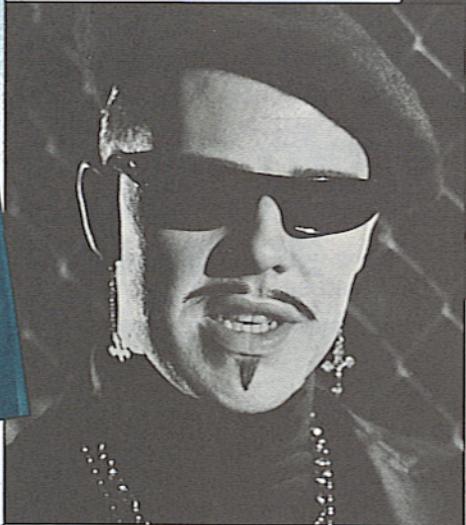
It wasn't just Thompson, Huyck says, everyone on the set came to feel very strongly about this little duck with the big cigar.

"I remember once we had a small accident on the set — HOWARD was lying on the floor and somebody tripped and stepped on his face and HOWARD's bill got bent out of shape. Well, immediately there was a terrible silence. HOWARD was hurt! He'd become such a real character for all of us we were ready to call an ambulance. Instead, the duck mechanics wan-

Maureen Garrett, the Fan Club's former Director, appears in HOWARD THE DUCK as a punk rocker. She designed and made the elaborate costume herself.



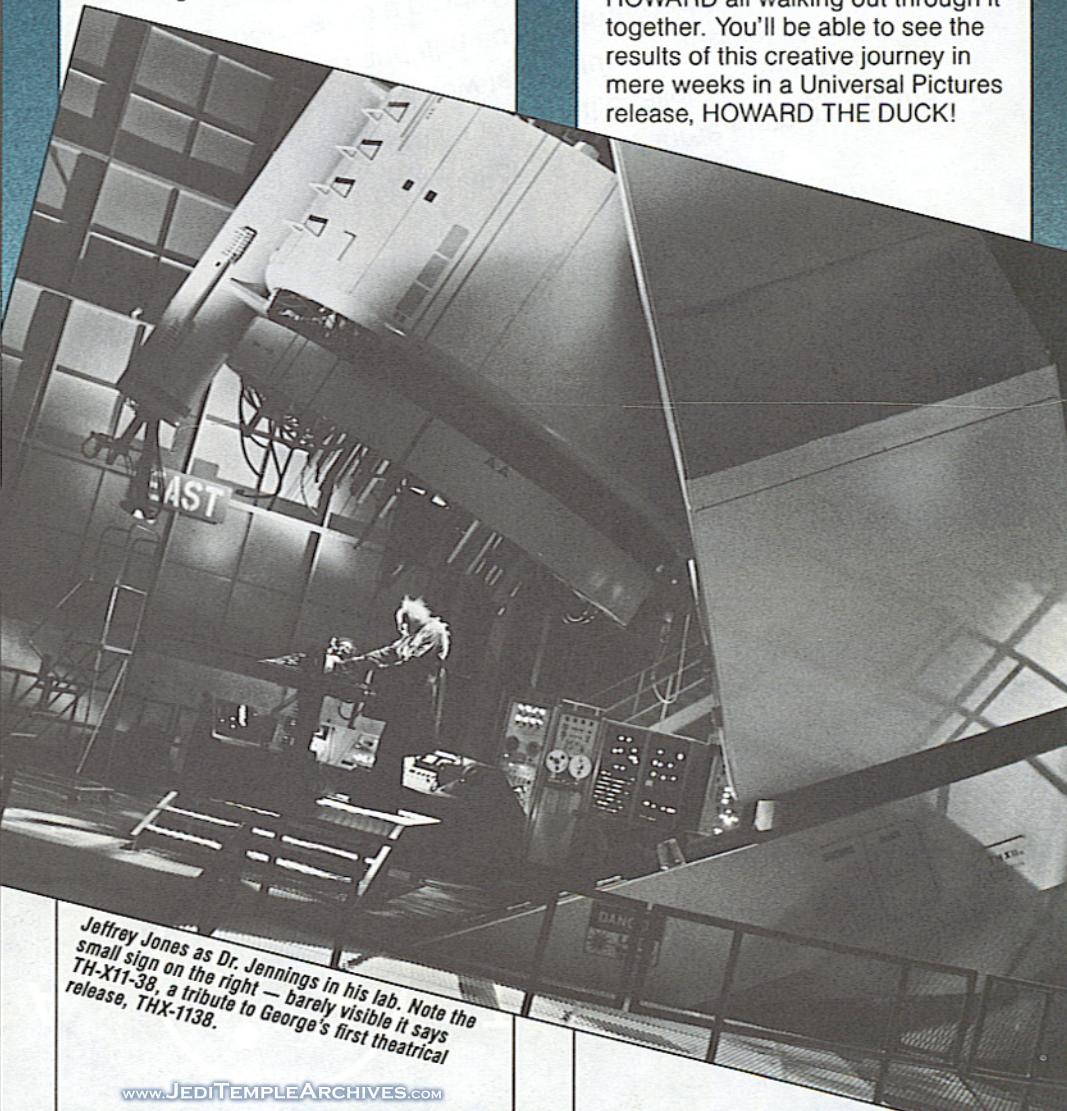
Thomas Dolby wrote much of the music for HOWARD and also appears in the cameo role of a bartender at a new wave night club.



dered over and repaired him in a couple of minutes. It made me realize we had created a little guy everybody truly believed in and loved."

Huyck's and Katz's work with George Lucas continues a collaborative relationship that now includes three films — AMERICAN GRAFFITI, INDY-2, and now HOWARD THE DUCK.

"George had excellent suggestions after he read the script. And when we screened the various rough cuts of the film with him, he was again very concise, clear and supportive. George's ability to watch a film like a real audience saved us a lot of previews and test screenings. His approach is: 'I want to know where I'm going in a film, but I don't want to know exactly what's going to happen when I get there."



Jeffrey Jones as Dr. Jennings in his lab. Note the small sign on the right — barely visible it says TH-X11-38, a tribute to George's first theatrical release, THX-1138.

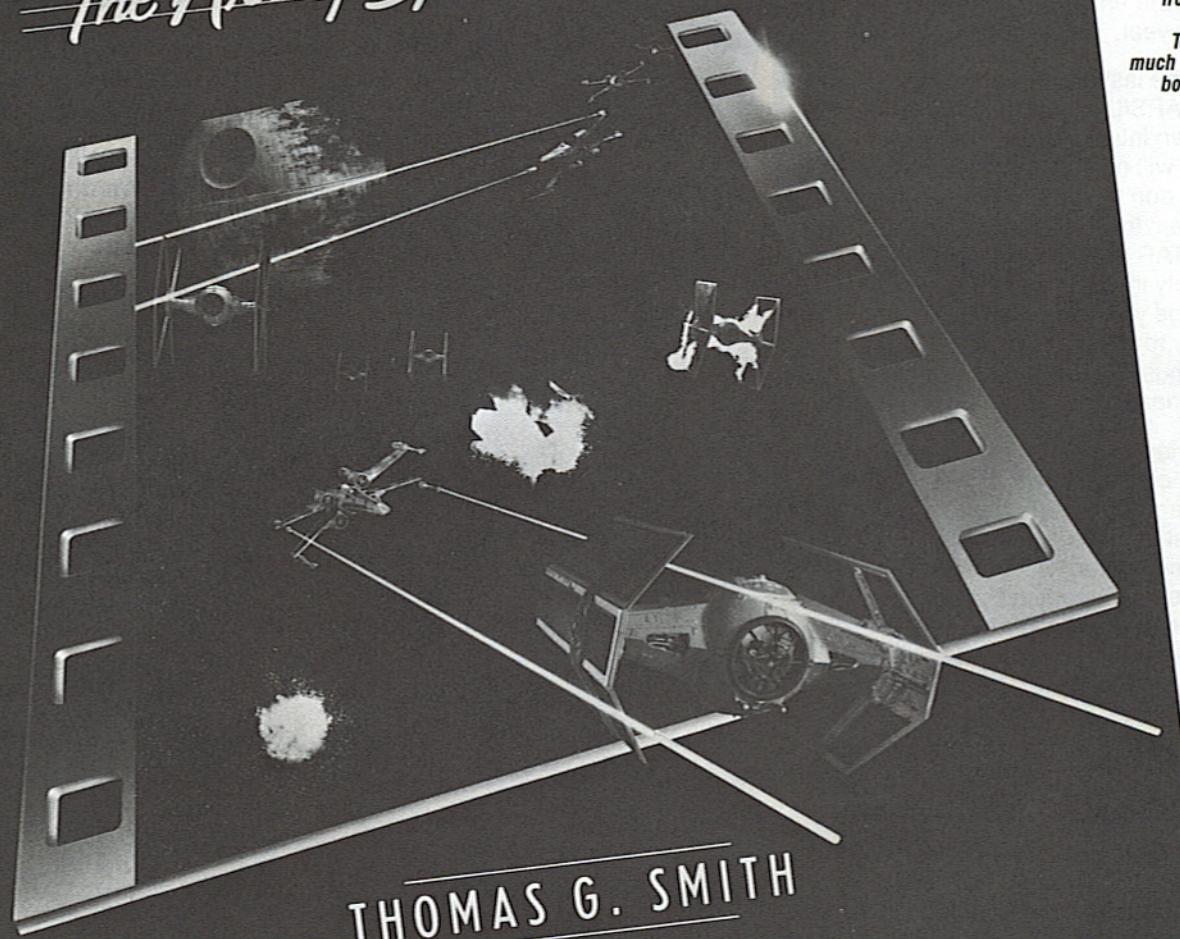
In addition to George's work with the film itself, the facilities at Lucasfilm Ltd. have added immensely to the process of making the film.

"As Executive Producer, George provided — along with his creative talents and expertise — a protective umbrella that gave us the freedom we needed to undertake this enormous project. And, once we decided to make the film in Northern California, we also gained the collaboration of ILM and Sprockets, which meant we had the best special effects and sound teams in the world. All in one location. Like right now, I can run over to ILM to check a shot then walk across the driveway to continue editing and then go out and pick up a night shot five minutes away. It's like having your own movie studio — without the big gate out front."

Even though that big gate isn't out front, the image is a great one — Willard Huyck, Gloria Katz and HOWARD all walking out through it together. You'll be able to see the results of this creative journey in mere weeks in a Universal Pictures release, HOWARD THE DUCK!

INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC

The Art of Special Effects



THOMAS G. SMITH

Introduction by George Lucas

INDUSTRIAL LIGHT & MAGIC

The Art of Special Effects

You're sitting in the movie theatre. The lights dim, the music begins, and suddenly you are transported into a magical world where all things are possible.

A spaceship hurtles toward you out of a vast star-filled universe.

A tree bursts through a child's bedroom window.

A small, fuzzy creature begins to spout philosophy.

A man's face literally melts away.

This is the art of special effects — the work of artists, draftsmen, model makers, and sculptors whose talents give life to a director's vision . . . the dazzling wizardry of the technical experts who translate that art work into a film reality.

This long awaited book by former ILM General Manager, Thomas G. Smith takes you behind the scenes for a complete analysis of the special effects process: from cinematic design, matte paintings, model construction, and creature development, to miniature photography and optical compositing. Smith explores ILM's invention of new cameras, lenses, and other devices to keep pace with human imagination. And he offers a glimpse into an ever bolder future for ILM through the use of computers in the making of films.

Industrial Light & Magic: The Art of Special Effects will be published by Del Rey/Ballantine this coming November.



THE MAN INSIDE C-3PO SPEAKS OUT

A Talk With Anthony Daniels

Actor Anthony Daniels visited the United States from his home in London recently to work on the new STAR WARS ride under construction at Disneyland in Anaheim, California. He also lent his and C-3PO's hand to HANDS ACROSS AMERICA — a campaign to fight hunger in the United States.

C-3PO will make an appearance in the new STAR WARS ride, so Daniels went to Disney's WED to do the voice work and to inspect the C-3PO animatronics. He also recorded what he calls "airport announcements" — in English and in Ewok — for the people boarding the ride. Daniels also took a ride on the preliminary simulator mock-up.

"It's just extraordinary. It's very dynamic physically. You really do have to wear your seat belt and stow your hand luggage as the announcements advise. It's very exciting and it's also very witty. It's actually quite amusing in a way most rides aren't. It's like no experience you've ever had!"

Daniels spent a lot of time at the huge Disney complex and learned that he shares many experiences with people like Goofy, Donald Duck, and Mickey Mouse.

"I was backstage at Disneyland recently and spoke to the people who play the Disney characters in costumes at the park. It was fascinating to get their reaction to what it's like to be in those suits. I said, 'Is it hot in the costumes?' because that's what people always ask me. And, they said, 'It's funny you should ask that.' But, they also said it was worth it because when you look down and see those children looking at you with such wonder and love you're touched so deeply. I was pleased to hear that because the same thing happens to C-3PO. A lot of people never get the chance to give that much or

have the opportunity to see that response from people. So, I feel very lucky to do this."

Yet, C-3PO is only one role Daniels performs. He also writes children's musicals for the B.B.C. radio network, acts on stage and on British television. That can create a kind of two part career for Daniels. On one hand he plays the parts of humans. On the other, he also performs C-3PO, a device — with endearingly human characteristics.

"My career has a totally split personality. I never think of myself as being Threepio. I look at him and Threepio is his own personality; and I'm me. Yet somehow we come together to give him life. C-3PO is a device. He's very human; but, he is a robot. It can be trying when I've got the costume on — on a film set — because people begin treating me like a robot. You've got to push a bit harder so they remember I'm inside. I do like C-3PO very much, That's why I've stayed with him."

By now you may have seen C-3PO in a TV tape promoting HANDS ACROSS AMERICA. In character, Daniels held hands with Robin Williams. Many other people you know were in the spot as well,

"I look at him and Threepio is his own personality; and I'm me. Yet, somehow we come together to give him life."

BARB LAKIN



holding hands just as thousands of people did for the nationwide human link-up earlier this year.

Daniels still receives lots of fan mail forwarded to him by the Fan Club and feels strongly about the support of the audience. Daniels says he is, after all, working for that audience. Daniels also knows that the Fan Club is taking a break until another STAR WARS is planned.

"Well seasons do come and go, don't they? But, the support of the Fans is what keeps film enterprises going. Playing C-3PO is a difficult job. Putting that suit on sometimes is awful, claustrophobic. But, what makes it all worthwhile is at the end of the day the Fans will see something in a scene, like it and tell me about it. Years can go by after you've given something that extra effort, but, someone somewhere will see it, and really enjoy it."

Working and performing for his audiences, from the stage, the screen and radio, Anthony Daniels has returned to the United Kingdom to continue his many faceted career.

DARTH VADER ATOP WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL

In our Fall 1985 issue, we noted that the helmeted visage of LORD VADER would be carved in stone to peer down upon the nation's capital from high atop Washington Cathedral.

The DARTH VADER design was one of four winners in the National Geographic Society's contest for young members and readers of its *World* magazine to design a grotesque architectural ornament or gargoyle such as those that populated the towers and rooflines of Medieval cathedrals. The Sith Lord will proudly join hundreds of fanciful beasts, creatures, and creations which adorn the Cathedral.

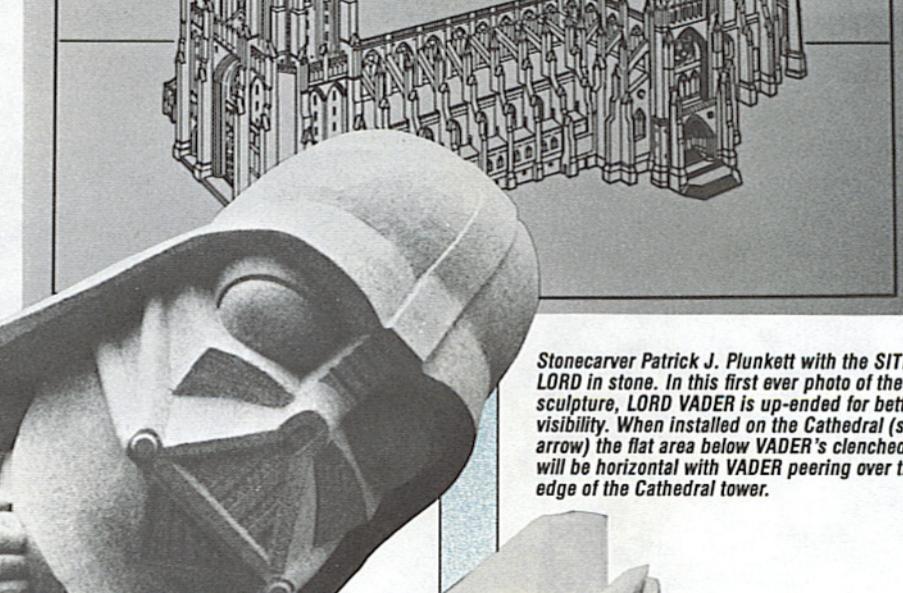
Gargoyles drain roof gutters, while grotesques perch on buttresses and pinnacles. Rainwater drains through channels carved into the gargoyles, over the tops of grotesques, and is directed away from the church walls in order to

prevent stains and damage. LORD VADER and his stony companions will guard against rain for centuries to come.

The VADER grotesque was designed by contest winner Chris Rader (13) of Kearney, Nebraska. It was carved in durable Indiana Lime-

stone by stonecarver Patrick J. Plunkett under the direction of master stonecarver Vincent Palumbo.

During 1987, workers will install the carving 170 feet above the ground on the West Tower, as the 301 foot tall Cathedral — begun in 1907 — nears completion in 1989.



Stonecarver Patrick J. Plunkett with the Sith Lord in stone. In this first ever photo of the sculpture, LORD VADER is up-ended for better visibility. When installed on the Cathedral (see: arrow) the flat area below VADER's clenched fists will be horizontal with VADER peering over the edge of the Cathedral tower.

DAVID CRAIG



LATARA & WICKET — All new episodes of EWOKS on ABC-TV.

COME JOIN OUR TRIBE

Ewoks Return This Fall

WICKET, KNEESAA, LATARA and TEEBO will take us back to the forests of Endor as EWOKS returns to ABC's Saturday morning line-up this September. There will be quite a few surprises. In the second season, WICKET's quest will be filling his "Belt of

Honor" so that he can be admitted to the Warriors Circle.

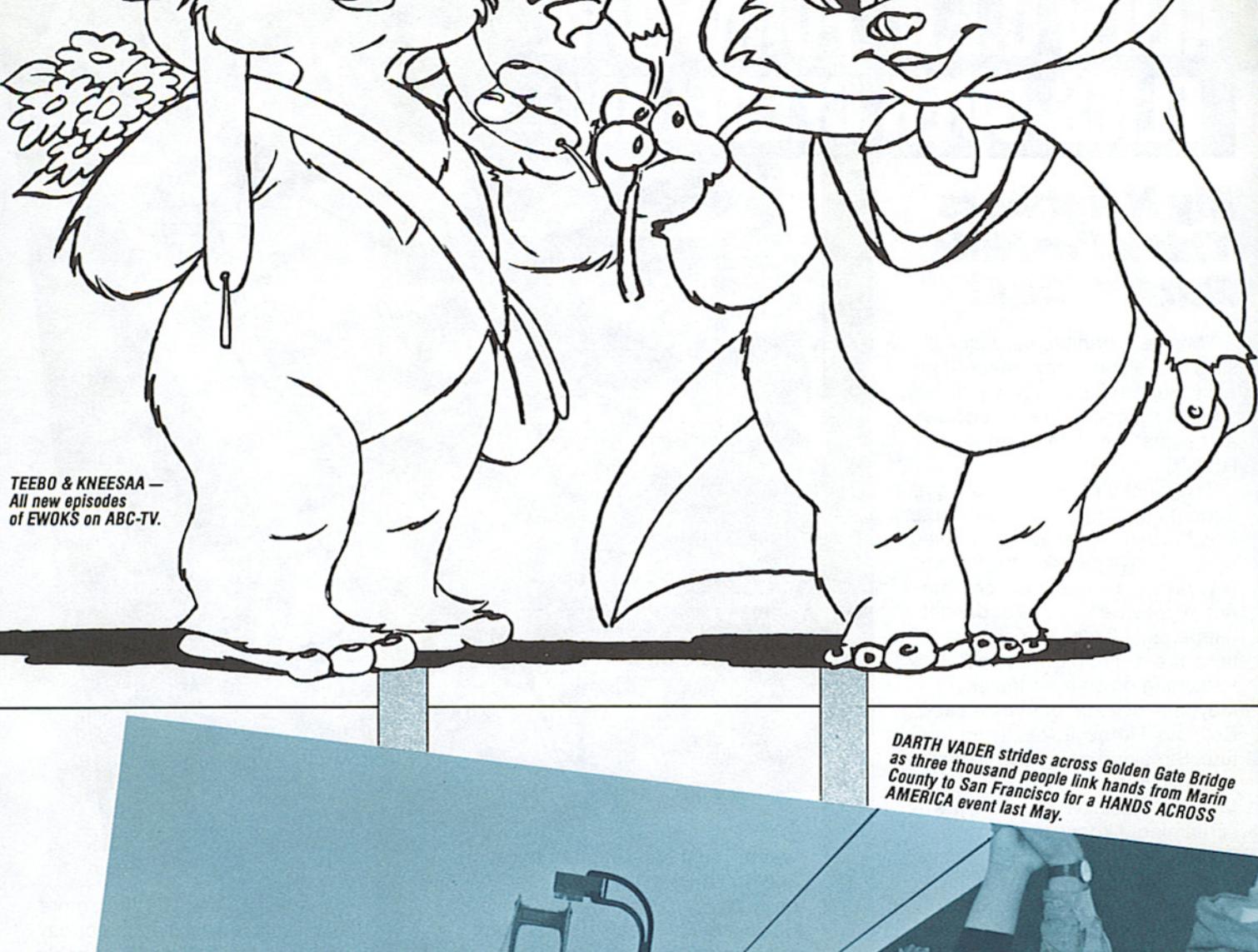
TEEBO takes his special powers of insight and communication one step further and becomes LOGRAY's apprentice, learning the skills of the tribe's resident shaman.

KNEESAA will be studying too. Her training will be for that of leader of the tribe. As daughter of CHIEF CHIRPA, KNEESAA must master the ways of community leadership.

LATARA continues work on her musical talents in her quest to be a skilled performing flautist — a star.

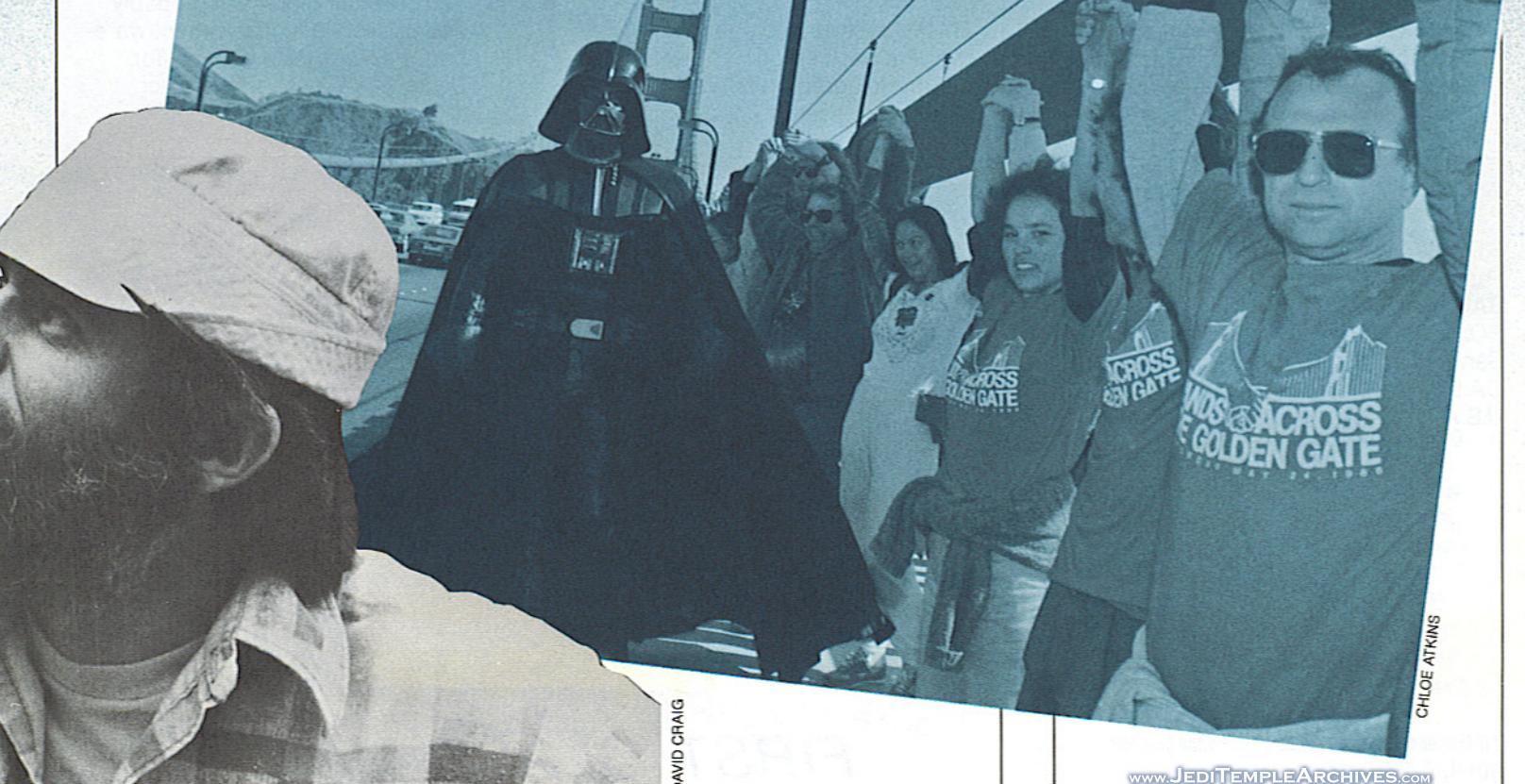
Executive Producers for EWOKS are Cliff Ruby and Elana Lesser whose animation credits include *Alvin & The Chipmunks* and *Mr. T.* Lesser and Ruby have a few surprises for us, too. One of them is the inclusion of two complete episodes of EWOKS in some of the half-hour time slots.

COME JOIN OUR TRIBE, with EWOKS, Saturday mornings on ABC-TV.



TEEBO & KNEESAA — All new episodes of EWOKS on ABC-TV.

DARTH VADER strides across Golden Gate Bridge as three thousand people link hands from Marin County to San Francisco for a HARDS ACROSS AMERICA event last May.



A MESSAGE FROM GEORGE LUCAS



DEAR MEMBERS,

Those of you who are regular readers of Bantha Tracks know that Lucasfilm Ltd. has taken a break from the STAR WARS Saga to complete new film projects. The Fan Club is going to take that break too.

Here at Lucasfilm we've devoted nearly 10 years to the Trilogy. We too are Star Wars fans — we have many friends in that Universe. It's a place we'll return to, one day.

As I think you know, production of the three elements of the STAR WARS Saga presented great challenges and offered many rewards. Whole new techniques in special effects, sound production and film editing emerged. New ways of working together as a production team developed as well.

Perhaps the greatest reward has been your response. The loyalty and enthusiasm of the Fans is very important to us. That's why we don't think it would be fair to Star Wars Fans to make them wait out this break between parts of the STAR WARS Saga.

The Fan Club has saved all its members' names and addresses. And, when the time is right to reactivate the Fan Club, you'll be among the first to know. Again, thank you.

Sincerely,

George Lucas

*May the force be
with you.*

EDITORIAL

As you've read in a message from George Lucas in this issue of Bantha Tracks, the STAR WARS/Lucasfilm Fan Club is going to take a hiatus at the end of your subscription year.

Over the last eight years, the STAR WARS/Lucasfilm Fan Club has grown into a unique organization. We will miss being here with you. But don't despair. If we have learned anything over these years, it is that STAR WARS Fans are a creative, highly imaginative group. We encourage you to use your own creativity to continue to express your enthusiasm for the STAR WARS Saga. Use your imagination!

Following a few guidelines, anyone can form their own STAR WARS Fan Club. First, your new club must be a non-profit, non-commercial group. Second, new Fan clubs must respect the wholesome nature of the STAR WARS characters and universe. Also, no one fan-organized Fan Club can claim to be the "Official" or the "Sanctioned" STAR WARS Fan Club.

The Official STAR WARS/Lucasfilm Fan Club can reactivate the moment a new STAR WARS film is announced because we've been saving the names of people who have asked us about the Fan Club. Since you're already a member, you'll be in the first group to hear any such news.

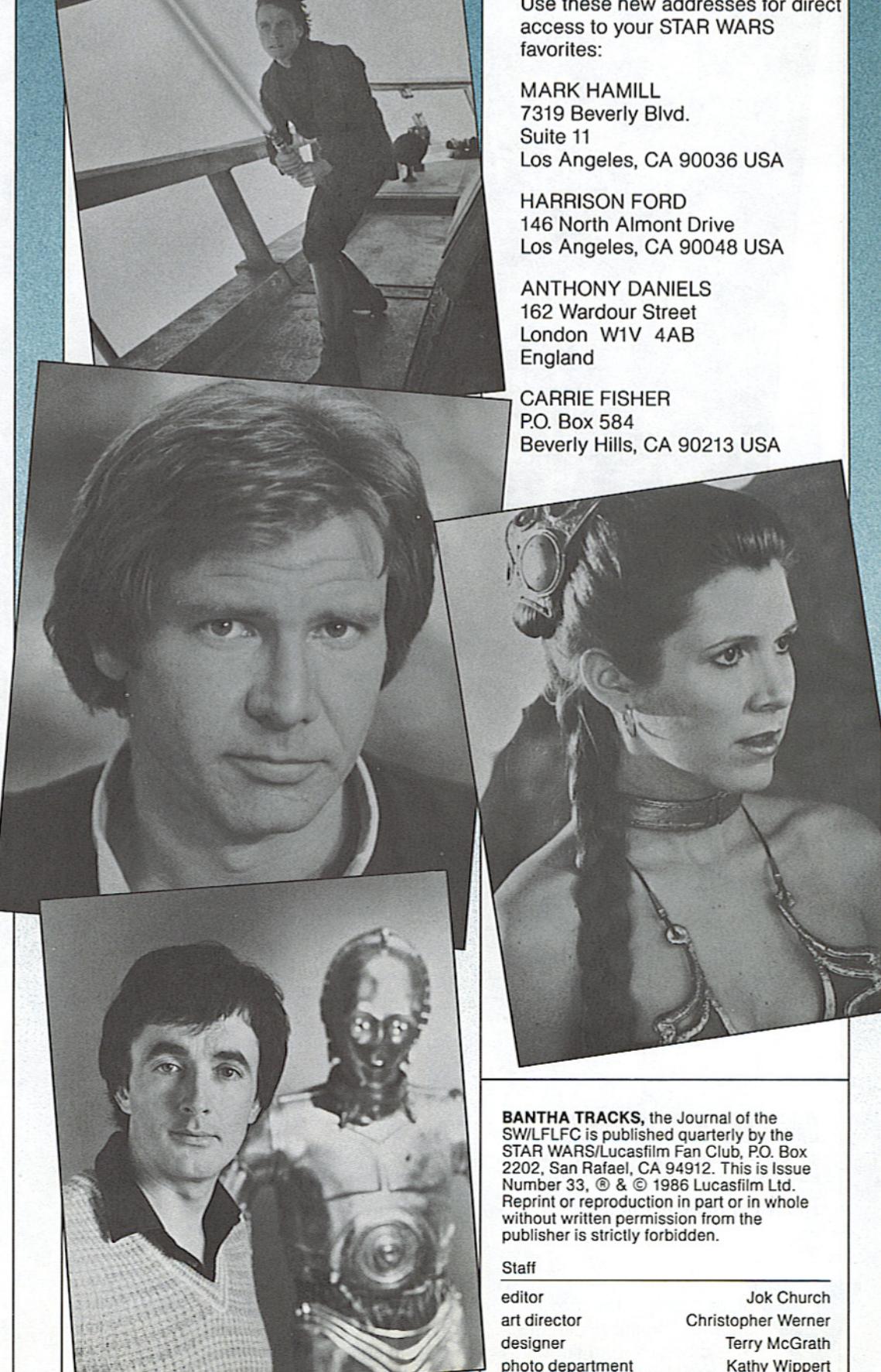
When you write Fan Mail to the cast of the STAR WARS films, we forward it along for you. After your membership runs out, you'll still be able to reach them. We're publishing their new addresses and will continue to do so as long as we're here. In the meantime, you'll continue to receive Bantha Tracks till the end of your membership year.

Thanks for your support and enthusiasm. We hope to be back with you soon, but in the meantime . . .

. . . may the Force be with you, always.

Jok Church,

Editor



NEW FAN MAIL ADDRESSES

Use these new addresses for direct access to your STAR WARS favorites:

MARK HAMILL
7319 Beverly Blvd.
Suite 11
Los Angeles, CA 90036 USA

HARRISON FORD
146 North Almont Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90048 USA

ANTHONY DANIELS
162 Wardour Street
London W1V 4AB
England

CARRIE FISHER
P.O. Box 584
Beverly Hills, CA 90213 USA

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Staff

editor Jok Church

art director Christopher Werner

designer Terry McGrath

photo department Kathy Wippert

Barb Lakin

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ALIEN U.F.O. FURNITURE FLIES OVER CLEVELAND

My Neighbors Think I'm Nuts; But It's True!

"My trashmen are very picky," says Cleveland homemaker Florence Bullzon, "that's why I always wrap the garbage in nice packages and sometimes I can't get to it until late."

The plucky Ohioan — now a resident of the Parma Oak Rest center in suburban Cleveland — showed us a package just like the one she was taking out the backdoor late one night when all of a sudden it happened. "It was like a chesterfield or a divan, glowing and streaming down from the sky!

Maybe a loveseat or even a Laz-E-Boy; but, I know it was flying furniture. Streaking down across the sky then disappearing. I swear it! Maybe it was alive because it was screaming! I know what you're thinking — furniture that screams, right! Well, it usually doesn't fly, either!"

Bullzon's neighbors are familiar with her gift-wrapped trash. "Those guys wake me up every Friday morning making comparisons, analyzing subtleties, talking about new ribbon treatments. She is just



PHOTO COURTESY: TERRITORIAL ENTERPRISE

Cleveland homemaker Florence Bullzon at the Parma Oak Rest center says furniture flying over her back porch changed her life.

weird!" said one. Another agreed, adding "It wasn't a recliner, everybody I know says it was a chaise! She's a feather brain. I mean, she sees flying furniture all the time. This time she's even got feathers all over the back stoop to prove it!"

Experts agree on one thing. It wasn't a dresser or occasional table

flying across the sky. And, more than likely it wasn't a sofa or day bed. The full report will probably end up filed in a government warehouse somewhere marked Top Secret the way so many other reports of flying furniture do.*

STAR WARS/Lucasfilm

Fan Club

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*If this doesn't make sense it will once you see HOWARD THE DUCK.

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